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## Letter from J. C. Bel to Floride Clemson, 1861 October 23

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Wheatland Lancaster

Oct 23. 1861.

A  
C626

My dear Floride. I  
fear you will think  
from my long silence  
that I do not desire  
the "bustle correspondence"  
which you promised  
me in your last letter  
nor is it quite fair  
that you should allow  
me "to regulate the  
correspondence" for I  
am so often interrupted  
although leading the  
most quiet of all quiet  
lives. I have rarely  
received letters that  
were more welcome to



me than yours - but  
your last came just  
as I was starting for  
Philadelphia, from whence  
I returned some days  
ago. Mrs Barton left  
during my absence, &  
from what I hear I  
doubt if she will return  
before joining you at  
the Home. I was so  
glad to have your full  
& interesting account  
of what was transpiring  
around you - for as you  
say, one cannot rely  
upon the newspapers.  
I can picture the sad  
changes in all those  
places with which I am



so familiar - & where I  
passed so many happy  
days. I do not see how  
any one can have heart  
for gaiety in these times,  
& when we have suffered  
so greatly: - & so many  
have friends on both  
sides of these melancholy  
conflict - but I venture  
to say, that Washington  
will be the gayest  
place in the country  
this year. I hear those  
who will be there  
anticipate as much  
pleasure as ever.  
The Berghmans will  
pass the winter in Italy.  
How can Mr. Bloudeau



<sup>2</sup>allow Beighmans as  
long a cough? Lily is  
chained no doubt - for  
she has long had an  
earnest desire to go  
abroad. Mrs Stockl  
will not be able to entertain  
I suppose - as I hear  
she has "great expectations"  
for the month of December.  
I had a pleasant little  
visit to Philadelphia -  
or rather to its neighborhood.  
Tomorrow we expect Mrs  
Roosevelt, & after her  
arrival I will decide  
whether to return with  
her next week, or post-  
pone my visit to New  
York until a few  
weeks later. If the



A  
C626

weather is the same  
Oct 23, 1861  
everywhere as here, it  
is cold enough to do  
anything - for it has  
been a near approach  
to winter for the last  
week. I expect to suffer  
from the cold this  
winter - I have been so  
little in this climate  
that I fear I will  
feel it keenly.  
Dear Uncle is getting  
stronger every day - &  
now quite himself again.  
I am sure he would  
send his kindest  
regards to you, & your  
mother, did he know



I was writing.  
Give my best love to  
Mrs Clemons - ask her  
to let me know if she  
ever hears any tidings  
of dear Mrs Ellis - for  
yourself, dear Floride,  
accept the warm &  
sincere love, of  
Yours very truly  
J. R. G.

Send your letters here as  
usual - they will be sent  
me if I am from home.